



# MEETING MINUTES

## GRAND RAPIDS COUNCIL PUBLIC HEARING



Held: July 26, 2021

Page 1 of 2

The Council of The Village of Grand held a public hearing from 6:30 P.M. to 6:53 P.M. in the Old Fire Hall to consider the request to vacate alley between inlots number 48 and 49. Mayor John Berry called the public hearing to order with the following members present:

Rick Tolles – Present

Carol Steck – Present

Rachel Smith – Present

Mark Sarkan - Present

Bob Krabill – Present

Jody Donsbach – Present

Mayor Berry stated we are here to consider the request from Tim Brown to vacate an alley between inlots 48 and 49 in the Village of Grand Rapids. Mayor gave Tim Brown the floor to speak.

Tim Brown brought in maps of the area so Council knew where the request was located. Tim first stated thanks for considering the request and appreciates Councils time and consideration. He has a great deal of respect for this process, he went through the same procedures when he was with the County Commissioners Office. He has never seen anyone drive down the alley. He spoke to his neighbors to see their thoughts, two neighbors already assumed it was their driveway but he assured them it was not. The funeral home was supportive, the benefit to the funeral home is that we would not be occupying their spaces in their lot when they have visitors. In his letter they outlined reasons for the request. The stone is sloped and is starting some ponding on their property. When the funeral home has a service and the lots are full there is no way for them to enter their garage. He stated we love our house and our community, this is not a complaint by all means. None of us had any say of how the house was plotted back in 1893. There are some issues that would benefit us and the funeral home if the alley was vacated. Tim stated Kathy from the funeral home was planning on attending but couldn't. He distributed pictures to Council for review. Tim stated he is happy to answer any questions.

Sarkan asked the administrator a question. We normally don't do this because there are utilities that could be run through there and asked the likely hood of that in the future. Administrator stated he can't answer that, he knows from a previous request that wasn't granted and we had no clue if utilities would run through. It ended up getting fiber optic running through it. Smith asked when the alley was stoned last, Administrator stated he believes it was last year. Administrator explained to Tim that this was the only public hearing required by the ORC. Then Council places the ordinance requesting to vacate the alley on the agenda, it gets

three readings and council can vote after the third reading. Tim Brown stated he would be more than willing to attend the meeting if Council would like. Krabill asked what other options would there be for that alley if we retained alley access but make it more accessible or usable. Administrator explained the alley north of this request, there was a request to vacate that alley and it was denied. The requester asked if he could put sod there, Council said yes. Council told the person if anything happened to that sod, Council would not fix it. This alley still remains a public alley. Tim stated they have no intention to fence in or build on it, they would just like to park there. If you choose not to vacate, they would still like to be allowed to park there it would not change its use. They would maintain it, we would not expect you to come out to mow or plow it. Administrator stated the alley doesn't get used and you can tell by the weeds growing all through out instead of just down the middle. Tim stated that was another one of their reasons. Their garden is along the same side of the alley where the chemicals are sprayed and they are non-chemical users on their property. Administrator suggested to Tim to jack up the garage and push it over and then you can park two inside and two outside. Tim stated that is something we haven't thought about. Administrator stated funeral home would get 10 feet and Tim Brown would get 10 feet if the alley would be vacated. Tim Brown said the funeral home stated they would be willing to sell their half to them. Mayor thanked Tim Brown for coming in to discuss.

Tim Brown stated on another note we had an issue where we needed to get plumbing replaced and he contacted the Administrator. Chad stated to let them know when the plumbers would be there and they would come turn the water off. Tim stated he was very helpful and everything went smoothly.

No further questions so the meeting was adjourned.


**ADJOURNMENT:**

Smith made a motion, seconded by Donsbach, to adjourn.

Votes were:           Steck – yes                   Sarkan – yes                   Krabill – yes  
                               Donsbach – yes               Smith – yes                   Tolles – yes

**MOTION APPROVED**

  
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 Kristel Beyer, Fiscal Officer

  
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 John Berry, Mayor